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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Bolivia, Botswana, Burundi, Lao People's Democratic
Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Nepal, Rwanda, Swaziland,
Uganda and Zambia: draft resolution

Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 44/214 of 22 December 1989 and all other resolutions of the United Nations relating to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the land-locked developing countries,

Recognizing also that 15 of the 21 land-locked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

Noting that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

Recognizing that measures to deal with the transit problems of land-locked developing countries require close cooperation and collaboration between those countries and their transit neighbours,

Recalling the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, adopted on 10 December 1982, 1/

Recognizing the important role played by bilateral and regional and subregional integration and cooperative arrangements towards alleviating the transit problems of the land-locked developing countries and improving the transit transport systems in land-locked and transit developing countries,

Noting with concern that the international support measures taken thus far have not adequately addressed the problems of land-locked developing countries,

1. Reaffirms the right of access of land-locked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with international law;

2. Calls upon both the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours, within the spirit of South/South cooperation, to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts in dealing with their transit problems;

3. Appeals to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries envisaged in the previous relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular, the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 3/ adopted at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly, and the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; 4/

4. Invites the land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours to intensify further their cooperative arrangements for the development of transit infrastructures, institutions and services to facilitate the movement of goods in transit with financial and technical assistance from donors and international agencies;

1/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3).

2/ See General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990.

3/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

4/ See A/CONF.147/18.

5. Emphasizes that assistance for the improvement of transit facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategy of the land-locked developing countries and that donor assistance should consequently take into account the requirement for long-term restructuring of the economies of the land-locked developing countries, including, as appropriate, the promotion of import-substituting industries producing high-bulk, low-value goods and developing high-value, low-bulk goods for export;

6. Urges donor countries and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide land-locked and transit developing countries with adequate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transit infrastructures, communications and facilities in order fully to integrate them into the regional and international transport and communications networks;

7. Requests the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to promote and strengthen bilateral, subregional, regional and interregional projects to expand further its support to the land-locked developing countries and activities of technical cooperation for development geared towards achieving national and collective self-reliance among them;

8. Takes note with appreciation of the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in formulating international measures to deal with the special problems of the land-locked developing countries, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference:

(a) To keep under constant review the evolution of transit infrastructure facilities, institutions and services and to recommend means of improving them in the light of changing requirements of individual land-locked developing countries, taking into account technological developments, particularly in the area of information and communications;

(b) To act as focal point for promoting cross-regional interchange of information and experience in cooperation with regional and subregional organizations;

(c) To continue to monitor the implementation of specific measures for the land-locked developing countries agreed upon in the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other international forums;

(d) To collaborate with all initiatives being undertaken to overcome the particular problems of land-locked developing countries, including those of the private sector and the non-governmental organizations;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to carry out specific studies in the following areas and to report on the results of these studies to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly:

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(a) Liberalization of transit services and streamlining of transit documentation and procedures;

(b) Implications of high-transit costs on the overall development of the land-locked developing countries;

(c) Identification of specific areas in the context of subregional and regional cooperation for the promotion and integration of transit infrastructure and services and harmonization of transit transport policies and legislation;

(d) Identification of specific areas for the expansion of the trade sector of land-locked developing countries, including the assessment of regional trade possibilities;

(e) Improvement of the security of goods in transit;

(f) Transit facilities accorded to land-locked developing countries in different regions;

(g) Improvement of current transit insurance regimes;

(h) Application of new information technology to improve transit services;

(i) Identification of specific training needs to improve the managerial capacities and the skills of personnel involved in transit operations to ensure effective utilization of transit transport facilities;

(j) Development and expansion of all other alternatives and/or complements to ground transportation in order to improve the access of land-locked countries to foreign markets;

10. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and, where relevant, the executive heads of the subregional economic groupings, to convene subregional symposia/workshops of experts of land-locked and transit developing countries in 1992/93 on the basis of the studies in paragraph 9 above and other relevant studies;

11. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to convene a meeting of high-level governmental experts of developing land-locked and transit countries and donor countries and financial and development institutions in 1993 to:

(a) Discuss the particular problems of land-locked developing countries in general, including those that are peculiar to individual countries;

(b) Consider support measures to foster better cooperative arrangements between transit and land-locked developing countries;

(c) Provide an opportunity to exchange views on how effectively to tailor assistance programmes to meet the specific requirements of land-locked developing countries, including those programmes and projects that enhance cooperative arrangements between land-locked and transit developing countries;

(d) Identify the problems faced in implementing donor assistance programmes in land-locked developing countries;

(e) Propose a concrete programme of action for the land-locked and transit developing countries, to be forwarded to the Trade and Development Board and the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, for appropriate action;

12. Decides to strengthen the branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development dealing with land-locked and island developing countries in order to ensure the effective implementation of the activities called for by the present resolution and other measures in support of land-locked developing countries;

13. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on progress in the implementation of specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries, submitted pursuant to resolution 44/214, and requests him to prepare another report, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution, the results of the studies to be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 9 above, and the outcome of the meeting of governmental experts of developing land-locked and transit countries and donor countries and financial and development institutions, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.
